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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 15, 2003

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Senate Approves Ban on Sexually Explicit Displays

LANSING — Public displays of sexually explicit material will no longer be allowed, state Sen. Ron Jelinek (R-Three Oaks) announced today, following Senate passage of House Bill 4360.

“Banning sexually explicit material promotes family values and protects the eyes and minds of innocent children,” Jelinek said. “Minors should not be exposed to this material when they walk into a neighborhood store.”

The effort to change the law came about from complaints from parents who had taken their children to use the facilities at places such as gas stations, only to find prominent displays of pornographic magazines and other such material in the business.

Under the bill, which now heads to Gov. Granholm for approval, such material has to be kept from public view either by covering the bottom two-thirds of it or by keeping it in restricted areas that prevents access by minors unaccompanied by guardians.

The bill also would eliminate language in existing law that deals with Internet pornography. That part of the law was struck down by a federal judge in 1999 and never was enforced.